



G-5's "Eye on AMC" U.S. Army Materiel Command

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

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CEB-Kuwait delivers front-line support

Ensuring Soldiers' missions are successful by providing the proper equipment is the responsibility of commanders on the ground. Ensuring the Soldiers in theater have the mission-capable, combat-essential equipment to perform their mission is the responsibility of the Combat Equipment Battalion-Kuwait.

"Our primary mission is to receive, issue, store, modify and repair equipment in support of the combatant commander and in direct support of the Army's reset plan," said Lt. Col. Scott N. Fletcher, commander of CEB-Kuwait.

CEB-Kuwait's workforce totals nearly 1,150 and is mostly comprised of third-country nationals working as mechanics. Fewer than 100 are Soldiers, most of them are technical experts assigned to the unit as supervisors.

CEB-Kuwait, which is headquartered at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., has assets in Iraq and Qatar. Together, they share the responsibility for distributing and accounting for Army Prepositioned Stock equipment.

When equipment is damaged in Iraq, a unit's request is sent to the CEB for a replacement. The equipment is identified within their huge inventory and repaired by contractors. In addition, the battalion is responsible for the mustering and distribution of up-armored M-1114 Humvees to units that need them the most.

"Back in the Vietnam era, units who suffered equipment losses in battle pretty much had to perform with what was left," Sgt. 1st Class Tony Horner said. "These days, the CEB will usually draw equipment and have it ready for replacement within a week, sometimes in a matter of days."

McAlester completes 'Operation MILVAN Unstuffing'

About 250 employees from the Logistics Operations Directorate at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant worked 12-hour shifts to unstuff 3,183 military-owned demountable containers over a seven-month period. The operation was completed 11 days ahead of schedule, said Lana Suter, logistics management specialist.

It all began in August 2003 when railroad cars began delivering the first of the MILVANS from Southwest Asia, Korea and Italy. The MILVANS contained a variety of munitions including bombs, bullets, anti-tank weapons, mines, propellant charges and rockets. The mission of the LO was to unload and store items by April 19, a deadline set by Joint Munitions Command.

With the deadline approaching and thousands of MILVANS yet to arrive, some friendly competition began. As a result, "Operation MILVAN Unstuffing" began, said Suter.

MILVANS are military versions of commercial shipping containers that weigh up to 22 tons each when filled, and measure 20 feet long by eight feet wide by eight and one-half feet tall.

Tobyhanna engineer earns award for medical shipping container

A Packaging Storage and Containerization Center engineer at Tobyhanna Army Depot earned national recognition for a shipping container that will be used worldwide by major and subordinate Army Commands, Defense Department components and other federal agencies.

Charlotte Lent, an industrial engineer in PSCC's Logistics Testing and Applications Division, was among those who earned second place in the National Institute of Packaging, Handling and Logistics Engineers-sponsored 2004 national packaging design contest.

Lent, along with the contractors she collaborated with (HGI Skydyne, Heritage Packaging and BBI-Biotech), earned the award in the Long-Life Category. Lent designed, tested and guided the fabrication of the Frozen Specimen Shipping Unit, which can be used with dry ice to transport any infectious matter in vials, such as blood specimens and tissue samples, and non-infectious items.